

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-11 and 17-24 were rejected and Claims 12-16 were objected to, but will be allowed if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have canceled Claim 15 and amended independent Claim 1, from which canceled Claim 15 depended, to include limitations of the objected to canceled Claim 15. Furthermore, Applicants have amended independent Claim 21 to include limitations of canceled Claim 15. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 21, and dependent Claims 2-14, 16 and 22-24 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-11 and 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,314,048 (Ishikawa).

Without conceding patentability per se of Claims 1-11 and 21-24, it is respectfully submitted that they are allowable by virtue of inclusion of limitations of the objected to Claim 15. As with regard to Claims 17-20, these claims do not contain the same limitations as Claims 1-11 and therefore a rejection of these claims was not provided.

Applicants respectfully submit that pending Claims 1-14 and 16-24 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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